

# CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

## FINAL MEETING NOTES

July 12, 2002  
9:00 – 3:30 pm

Channel Islands National Park Auditorium  
Ventura, CA

*The following notes summarize the July 12, 2002 meeting of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC). These notes will be posted on the CINMS website at: [www.cinms.nos.noaa.gov/sacmin.html](http://www.cinms.nos.noaa.gov/sacmin.html). Audio tapes of SAC meetings are available from the CINMS office: 805-966-7107.*

### Attending:

#### GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

##### **NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE**

Member Mark Helvey  
Alternate Christina Fahy

##### **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

Member Tim Setnicka

##### **US COAST GUARD**

Member J. Wade Russell

##### **MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE**

Alternate Fred Piltz, Ph.D.

##### **US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

Member Alex Stone  
Alternate Walter Schobel

##### **CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

Alternate LT. Jorge Gross

##### **CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY**

Alternate Melissa Miller- Henson

##### **CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

Member Rebecca Roth

##### **COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

Member Dianne Meester [SAC Chair]  
Alternate Jackie Campbell

##### **COUNTY OF VENTURA**

Alternate Jack Peveler

#### COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

##### **TOURISM**

Member Jeanette Webber [SAC Secretary]

##### **RECREATION**

Member Jim Brye

##### **BUSINESS**

Member Michael Hanrahan

##### **CONSERVATION**

Member Linda Krop  
Alternate Greg Helms

##### **FISHING**

Member Harry Liqournik

##### **PUBLIC AT-LARGE**

Member Robert Duncan  
Alternate Avie Guerra

##### **PUBLIC AT-LARGE**

Alternate Roberta Cordero

#### NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

##### **CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY**

LCDR Matthew Pickett, Manager

##### **MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY**

William Douros, Superintendent

Absent:

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

Alternate Gary Davis

**US COAST GUARD**

Alternate Troy Rentz

**MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE**

Member Drew Mayerson

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

Member Patricia Wolf

**CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY**

Member Brian Baird

**CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION**

Alternate Gary Timm

**COUNTY OF VENTURA**

Member Lyn Krieger

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

**TOURISM**

Alternate Alex Brodie

**RECREATION**

Alternate Eric Kett

**BUSINESS**

Alternate Don Dusette

**FISHING**

Alternate1 Eric Hooper

**EDUCATION**

Member Larry Manson

Alternate Kathy deWet-Oleson

**RESEARCH**

Member Dr. Robert Warner

Alternate Dr. Dan Brumbaugh

**PUBLIC AT-LARGE**

Member Jon Clark [SAC Vice Chair]

Alternate Richard Holt

**PUBLIC AT-LARGE**

Member Dr. Matthew Cahn

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

**Gulf of the Farallones & Cordell Bank National  
Marine Sanctuaries**

Ed Ueber, Manager

## Attendance

At roll call, 15 of the 20 voting seats were represented, with an additional 2 seats represented after late arrivals. There were a total of 24 SAC representatives in attendance for the day (12 members, 10 alternates, 2 non-voting). Public attendance averaged about 40 individuals.

## Administrative & Announcements

Minutes from the March 15, 2002 SAC were approved (13 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain) and will be posted on the Sanctuary's web site. Minutes from the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting will be distributed soon.

By general acclaim, the SAC agreed with the Chair's suggestion that the level of detail for meeting minutes should be scaled back to something closer to the "meeting highlights" that are currently produced after each meeting. The SAC also agreed that audio tapes of the meetings should be made available to anyone requesting them.

Lt. Wade Russell with the US Coast Guard was welcomed and introduced himself as a new member of the SAC. Having recently transferred from Louisiana, Wade is the new Supervisor of the Coast Guard's Marine Safety Detachment in Santa Barbara.

Sanctuary Staff Sarah Fangman and Bob Schwemmer provided a summary report on the recent CINMS mission to investigate the submerged remains and marine environment surrounding the sunken Pac Baroness, a 562-foot bulk carrier that went down in 1987 off Point Conception while carrying 21,000 metric tons of powdered copper concentrate. Bob described the positioning of the vessel on the seafloor, explained the techniques used with an ROV to explore the site, and reported that the expedition was a total success. Sarah Fangman commented on the environmental conditions at and near the wreck site, noting that ample marine life was seen, and oil was not observed. She commented that the area did not have the appearance of a biological disaster zone. Sarah also explained that

sediment samples were taken from the same locations as was done in 1987, and that lab results should be available in 6 to 9 months.

SAC representatives made the following announcements:

Jack Peveler reported that a new oceanographic buoy from Scripps was recently installed off of Channel Islands Harbor, and should be reporting data on line soon.

Fred Piltz announced that a new comprehensive handbook on protocols for intertidal monitoring had just been published, with Steve Murray of California State University Fullerton being one of the primary authors.

Robert Duncan shared news that a new Channel Islands shipwreck exhibit recently opened at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, and announced that a marine archaeology exhibit is coming soon.

Jeanette Webber reported that she had arranged for CINMS staff (Shauna Bingham) to provide a presentation about the Sanctuary on July 17<sup>th</sup> to the Greater Santa Barbara Lodging Association.

Bill Douros, Superintendent of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, announced that a new report is available that summarizes the priority management issues to be addressed in the Joint Management Plan Review process (involving the Monterey Bay, Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries). Copies are available from the CINMS office.

Tim Setnicka reported that a newsletter would soon be sent out regarding the General Management Plan update process for the Channel Islands National Park. Tim said that management options to be investigated in the process will include "marine stewardship zones." Tim also reported that a final settlement had recently been arrived at for the Montrose Chemical/DDT case, with the result being \$30 million in funds becoming available for improving fish, seabird and bald eagle habitat. Through the General Management Plan update process, Tim said, the CINP is preparing to seek funds from this source.

Jorge Gross reported that, despite the recent emergency closures on groundfish enacted by the PFMC along the California coast, the DFG does not plan to make changes to the Department's proposed project on MPAs at the CINMS. Jorge also announced that the Swordfish, a new DFG enforcement vessel, was recently launched out of Ventura and will be patrolling around the Channel Islands.

Jim Brye thanked Tim Setnicka and the CINP for doing good work at the islands to enhance boater visits, noting that he had been receiving a lot of positive feedback from the boating and yachting constituencies he communicates with. In particular, Jim offered praise for the new pier and dock at Prisoner's Harbor.

Greg Helms expressed concerns about the expected shift in fishing effort to nearshore areas of the Sanctuary following the recent emergency closure of rockfishing in deeper waters. He suggested that CINMS should not ignore this concern.

### **Presentation: Dan Basta, Director, NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program**

Mr. Basta began his presentation by showing an eight-minute video tape of a recent informational/documentary product about the National Marine Sanctuary Program, featuring a segment on seabird research at CINMS.

### **CINMS Manager Hiring Process**

Mr. Basta explained the process that will be used to recruit, interview and select the next Sanctuary Manager for CINMS. He reminded everyone that the application period closes on July 17<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Basta spoke candidly about the limitations of the on-line system used for narrowing down the field of applicants, and stated that it may be necessary to repeat the recruitment process more than once if it

isn't working out. He explained that Sanctuary Manager jobs often attracts a lot of political attention and sometimes controversy. He also emphasized the importance of not making a bad decision on this, and assured the SAC that as much time as necessary would be spent on this to assure that the right choice is made.

Mr. Basta named the individuals that had been assigned or invited to participate on an interview panel, which includes the current managers of all four California National Marine Sanctuaries, one staff person from CINMS, the Chair of the SAC, the Deputy Director of the NMSP, and himself. He added that the finalists will come to the site to meet with the staff. He also explained that the intent is to have the new Manager start in October and overlap with Matt Pickett through the end of the year.

### **Advisory Council Discussion on Manager Hiring**

SAC Chair Dianne Meester asked the SAC if they would like to make any suggestions regarding the hiring of a new manager.

Roberta Cordero felt that an important quality for the new manager would be that he/she have a good grounding in interest-based processes.

Rebecca Roth recommended that the manager should be someone that will be a strong advocate for CINMS and the SAC at the national level.

Linda Krop suggested that the next manager should be familiar with marine issues, science, resource threats, and implementing creative solutions.

Melissa Miller-Hensen said that the next manager should be a good team player that is open to suggestions from others.

Jackie Campbell commented that it is important for the next Manager to be in place for the long term.

### **Management Plan Revision Process**

Mr. Basta mentioned the letter the SAC had sent to NOAA Administrator Admiral Lautenbacher, and pointed out that the Council had specifically requested to know what the process would be for completing the management plan revision process. He then shared the story of how the management plan for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary had struggled to be finalized when it was held up in Washington DC for 9 months before finally coming back to the local community. He termed this waiting period the "black hole" and said that, essentially, that is where the CINMS revised management plan has been for some time.

Mr. Basta explained some of the reasoning for the delays including the extra time it took for the new administration to appoint a NOAA Administrator. He also emphasized that the Program wants very much to complete the management plan, and that the information that has been gathered and analyzed for the plan was the some of the best work done in the Program at the time.

Mr. Basta went on to describe a meeting that took place recently between NMSP officials and Admiral Lautenbacher (NOAA Administrator), noting that a strong case was made for moving forward with the CINMS management plan revision process. He said that regarding the agency's need to choose a preferred boundary alternative, the key issue came down to whether or not the science and analysis supporting boundary decisions was adequate at this time. Mr. Basta explained that the Admiral's expected scientific rigor was not being met for this decision, and that he also truly felt that the biogeographic and spatial analysis of boundary options was not yet at an appropriate level. He added that the SAC's inability to agree on a preferred alternative did not help bring additional clarity to the decision. Given all of this, he explained, the agency will not be selecting a preferred boundary alternative in the DEIS.

Mr. Basta reminded everyone that one of NOAA's seven goals is "ecosystem management," and he noted not only that this is consistent with the mandate for the National Marine Sanctuary Program but also that the current CINMS boundary does not reflect a defined marine ecosystem.

A series of draft documents and a process flow diagrams were then distributed that charted the expected plan for completion of the management plan revision process, including a decision on boundaries (all SAC members received these documents and they were made available to the public as well). The documents provided were:

- Biogeography of the National Marine Sanctuaries – Draft Report, July 2002
- A Biogeographic Assessment of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, Preliminary Draft, July 8, 2002
- A Biogeographic Assessment off North/Central California, Draft Interim Product, June 2002
- Flow Diagram: Draft Proposed Activities and Updated Timeline for the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Regarding the biogeographic study that will be conducted at CINMS in order to provide additional scientific information on which to base a boundary decision (via a supplemental EIS process to begin in 2004 and conclude in 2005), Mr. Basta explained that \$200,000 was being allocated for the study and that it will be developed on a fast track schedule of 12-18 months. All of this work, he said, would be provided to the SAC.

Mr. Basta concluded his remarks by encouraging the SAC to stay the course, and emphasizing the need for folks to be involved for the long haul. He added that if the information within reach today had been available two years ago, a decision would already have been made.

#### **Advisory Council Discussion on Management Plan Process**

Greg Helms suggested that NOAA's handling of marine reserves should be combined with the management plan process if it can help move it along, to which Mr. Basta responded that this possibility would be kept open as an option.

In response to Robert Duncan's question about whether or not the boundary options the SAC previously recommended would be lost, Mr. Basta responded that they would not, but rather new and additional information about those options would be brought forward by the biogeographic study.

Linda Krop expressed shock and strong concerns about the bifurcation and delay of the process, and commented that it may not be possible to sustain community interest and participation. She also asked why the central California sanctuaries were so far ahead of CINMS in their management plan reviews, to which Mr. Basta explained that when he came on board as Director and set up the biogeographic studies now being completed for those sites, the CINMS approach was already locked in. Only now, he explained, the new standards and expectations of the Administration are understood and lead us to the need for a biogeographic study of the CINMS study area. Mr. Basta went on to note that because the CINMS "management plan" is so old and was never really a plan at all, that this is more like creating a new management plan, not a revision. He noted that, based on experiences elsewhere, such as at the Florida Keys, future reviews of the management plan would take far less time.

Jeanette Webber stated that this approach seemed like a move to delay given political charges, and asked if an interim management plan could be put in place. Sanctuary Manager Matt Pickett responded that the staff has been effectively implementing the draft management plan (non-regulatory programs) throughout the delay period.

Jack Peveler asked if socio-economic impacts on the local communities would be looked at as part of the consideration of a boundary change, to which Mr. Basta replied in the affirmative.

Greg Helms commented that by not making a decision on this, and by not acting strongly on marine reserves, the Sanctuary was taking itself out of the game of true resource protection relative to other agencies. He advised that the true costs of the delayed process be considered.

SAC Chair Dianne Meester summed up comments from the Council by telling Mr. Basta that he has been hearing “controlled frustration” from the group. She commented that many people feel like nothing is being accomplished, and that the new flow diagram of the process might mean as much as similar plans meant two years ago. She expressed strong concern about the site’s loss of staff and resources (i.e., Anne Walton), and the loss of community interest and participation. Mr. Basta acknowledged these concerns as legitimate and expected, but emphasized that what is most important now is to keep moving forward. Rather than blaming the Program or the staff, he said, consider that this is part of the deal when the federal government engages in a democratic, public process. Dianne replied that she did not feel the democratic process was to blame for the delays, but rather it had already clearly called for action and a decision, which was blocked back in Washington DC.

Linda Krop requested that these concerns be brought back to Washington DC and reported by Mr. Basta.

Dianne Meester commented that having Anne Walton reassigned to CINMS would be good, because she (Anne) represents the management plan project’s continuity.

## **Public Comments**

Cindy Cunningham with the office of State Senator Jack O’Connell asked that the oil lease areas in the Channel be considered for Sanctuary protection in future decisions concerning the boundary.

Oscar Pena, General Manager of the Ventura Port District, expressed hope that the CINMS management plan not be implemented unless it has the support of the community, and asked for more public comment time and increased efforts to reach compromises with the fishing and port communities.

Michael McGinnis commented that more than science will be important for mapping and understanding Sanctuary boundaries, such as public values and sensibilities, the importance of protection, and how the Sanctuary can contribute to protection of resources. He asked if a biogeographic study could help with this, and noted that a boundary change would not protect the Sanctuary, but rather people will.

Donald Smith (commenting orally and in writing), pointed out that the FAA should be involved in the development of this management plan given the potential impacts to commercial launches at Vandenberg Air Force Base.

Sandy Delano with the Ventura Port District asked that CINMS please not discontinue postcard meeting announcements in favor of an e-mail-only system.

Pete Dupuy, President of the Ventura County Commercial Fishermen’s Association, advised that there is a lot of biomass in the Santa Barbara Channel that is not known about given that it has been 20 years since a stock survey was conducted. He also recommended that the management plan should consider the regulations found in other plans so that unnecessary or overly burdensome over-regulation does not occur.

Paul Petrich, hailing from a long-time fishing family, expressed support for marine reserves and commented that they are scientifically supported and needed.

Ray Chambers with the Ventura County Commercial Fishermen’s Association commented that local stocks and fisheries are much healthier than people know, especially crab and prawn, which he said should not be subjected to closures.

Steve Shimek, Executive Director of the Otter Project, said that he appreciated the call for science with regard to the Sanctuary boundary decision, but he was worried about the bar being raised higher and higher, thus making it difficult to make conservation decisions that need to be made.

Jesse Swanhuysen with the Local Ocean Network expressed support for a larger Sanctuary boundary and said that the Sanctuary Program should, as soon as possible, step up and make decisions that need to be made.

Jean Holmes with the League of Women's Voters urged that NOAA take a long range viewpoint when completing the management plan and deciding on a Sanctuary boundary.

Terry Wolmark, a commercial fisherman, commented that the many different regulations on fishing is confusing. He pointed out that he has not heard enough talk about vessel buy backs, job training, and other assistance.

Norma Jean commented that effects upon a major industry (fishing) are being overlooked with the marine reserves proposals. She added that if closures are to occur, something should be given back to the industry. She also said that the industry would not step aside until a compromise can be reached.

## **Working Group and Ad Hoc Group Progress Reports and Recommendations**

### **Ad Hoc Group on Marine Reserves Enforcement**

Group chair Robert Duncan reported that enforcement agency contacts met on July 10 to begin talks on collaborative planning. Robert said that participants included CINMS, CINP, NMFS, and the Coast Guard, and that unfortunately CDFG was unable to attend. Robert recapped some of what the agency representatives had shared with each other concerning the amount of resources they can bring to enforcing laws around the Channel Islands, and the extent to which it can be a priority task.

Robert also said that he believes CINMS could serve well as a coordinator for these efforts. Robert then modified the suggested planning approach previously coming from the Ad Hoc Group, in that he recommended that the agencies continue their planning efforts (tier 1), which can take some time to finalize, while the public input element (tier 2) run in tangent to that. The SAC, Robert said, could be helpful in creating a forum to solicit input on enforcement strategies, and he also suggested that the SAC's Sanctuary Education Team (SET) should be closely involved.

Linda Krop then offered a motion, which was unanimously approved by the SAC, that the Council write a letter to each of the key enforcement agencies encouraging that they continue to work together on enforcement planning for CINMS and move expeditiously to develop necessary interagency agreements.

### **Sanctuary Education Team (SET)**

Michael Hanrahan, reporting for the Co-Chairs of the SET, provided a progress report. Michael reported that the SET met on June 12<sup>th</sup>, and that recent work had involved the outlining of various strategies for addressing key user groups with messages about the closed area at Anacapa Island. Michael said that SET member Frank Sullivan recently presented his ideas to the SAC for reaching the fishing community, with key points being emphasized that 1) An educational product that will be kept and utilized by fishers should be created, such as a chart that outlines reserve areas; and 2) the important of identifying special zones such as a no take zones by using boundaries that are easy to reference.

Michael also reported that the SET has been working on a mission statement. He read two versions of current draft statements under consideration: Version 1: "Definition: The Sanctuary Advisory Council established the Sanctuary Education Team as a permanent working group to explore education opportunities pertaining to the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and to develop strategies for implementation in the form of recommendations to the Sanctuary Advisory Council;" "Mission: To advance public understanding of the biodiversity, ecology, and cultural legacy that comprise this

unique and diverse region, and to promote stewardship of marine ecosystems. Version 2: "The Sanctuary Education Team mission is to assist the Sanctuary Advisory Council in making recommendations to the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. To advance public understanding of the biodiversity, ecology, and cultural legacy that comprise this unique and diverse region, and to promote stewardship of marine ecosystems."

Michael announced that the next SET meeting will be August 14<sup>th</sup> in Santa Barbara, and will feature Harry Liquornik as a guest speaker commenting on methods for communicating with the commercial fishing community. Dr. Satie Airame will also be at the meeting to share some of her recent work on educational tools about marine reserves.

Michael concluded his report by commenting that it would seem that a joint meeting of the SET and the SAC's Ad Hoc Group on Enforcement would be a good idea.

### **Ad Hoc Group on Socio-Economic Monitoring of Marine Reserves**

CINMS Resource Protection Specialist Sean Hastings, reporting for Group Chair Lyn Krieger, reported on the progress of this group. Sean reported that the Ad Hoc Group had received but not yet commented on suggestions provided by Bob Leeworthy, NOAA Economist. Sean shared with the SAC the essence of the suggestions made by Leeworthy, which were to recommend that a workshop be convened to bring together experts and constituents focused on the task of building a program plan for socio-economic monitoring of marine reserves at the CINMS. Sean recommended that if this approach were taken, the SAC could be helpful in helping to establish which priority issues should be addressed at the workshop. He suggested that staff could work with Leeworthy to bring back to the SAC a description of the workshop's scope and some key questions the SAC could help answer.

Sean also asked the SAC to comment on whether or not they like this approach, and if they felt that a workshop should be convened before or after a marine reserves decision by the Fish and Game Commission.

Harry Liquornik commented that because many in the fishing community are unhappy right now with the way marine reserves are going, it would be difficult to enlist their help with this right now.

Jim Brye and Rebecca Roth both stated that it seems important for progress to be made on this monitoring program prior to a decision by the Fish and Game Commission.

Mark Helvey advised that CINMS not work in a vacuum on this, and that the actions being taken that consider the state's Marine Life Protection Act process and recent actions by the Pacific Fishery Management Council.

By general acclaim (not a formal vote) there was agreement on the SAC that CINMS proceed to develop the workshop proposal and bring more information to the SAC.

### **Water Quality Subcommittee**

Subcommittee Chair Greg Helms reported on progress and recommendations from the Water Quality Subcommittee. Greg distributed a report from the subcommittee (given to the entire SAC), and explained the following main findings of the group:

- a) Begin with a focus on Channel Islands water quality as a starting point, assessing potential efforts to address regional water quality over time
- b) Gain a stronger handle on existing monitoring of Island water quality to identify gaps, trends and sources
- c) Work collaboratively to create a formal, systematic monitoring program
- d) Focus as possible on water quality threats to biological resources rather than human health issues
- e) Protect existing water quality now on the assumption that improvement is desirable and necessary



- f) Utilize the education program, focusing at first on boating and marinas, to raise awareness of Island water quality issues

Greg then suggested the specific initial recommendation of the subcommittee, which was that the development of recommendations on the water quality issue should begin by gathering information on the status of water quality near the islands. To do this, Greg said, the subcommittee would like to talk with leads, spokespersons and principal investigators of water quality monitoring programs in place at or near the islands. Greg said that they envision that this would include talking with people at the Park, UCSB's Plumes and Blooms study, PISCO, SCCWRP, Mussel Watch, and others. Greg also reported that the Subcommittee felt it would be important to try to understand what each of the major monitoring programs can say about water quality at the islands, and what the significant gaps are to understanding water quality and health. From here, Greg said, work could branch out to consider water quality threats coming from outside the Sanctuary.

Greg also reported that the subcommittee felt it would be important for CINMS to make water quality work a priority with respect to funding a staff position and other resources.

Roberta Cordero, also a member of the Water Quality Subcommittee, expressed that she felt it would be important to get everyone together that is working on water quality improvement so that the issue could be looked at from a watershed and regional basis. She suggested that the Waterkeeper Alliance could be helpful with this.

Mark Helvey suggested that Sea Grant might be a good organization to work with on this.

Rebecca Roth pointed out that urban runoff has been shown to be the largest threat to the ocean's water quality, and that she agreed with the need for CINMS to get full time staffing on this.

Matt Pickett posed the question of, relative to all the issues and tasks CINMS is faced with, how important is the need for additional staffing on water quality work? Rebecca Roth responded that she felt it should be a top priority for the CINMS, while Greg Helms stated that he felt it was about the third most important priority.

Linda Krop, reporting for the Conservation Working Group, said that the group had agreed that: 1) monitoring and assessment is the first key step; 2) a broader look, beyond the islands, is then needed due to the nature of the threats. Linda also said that she agreed that staffing and resources for this work were a high priority, and reminded everyone that most of the management plan public scoping comments mentioned water quality concerns, and that it came up often during the MRWG process.

Fred Piltz reported that Bight 2003 would be starting soon, and that this would bring together projects and organizations to participate in marine water sampling throughout the southern California bight, including the islands.

Melissa Miller-Henson added that a strong database on water quality monitoring exists at the State Water Quality Resources Board.

Greg suggested that he could get more information about Bight 2003, and also will work with Mike to talk with Project Clean Water and other potential partners.

Rebecca Roth commented that the discussion seems to keep getting back to questions about what information is out there, who's doing what, and how these groups can come together. She suggested that it might be helpful to set up a one-day or half-day facilitated meeting designed to address what's being monitored, what education programs are in place, etc. From this meeting, Rebecca said, perhaps a Working Group or other group could then be created and used to leverage additional support to get work done. Rebecca then offered a two part motion, to suggest that the SAC should recommend to CINMS that: 1) Water quality work should be made a high priority for CINMS, and funding for staffing should be sought; and 2) CINMS should host a meeting of participants that have

a stake in water quality at the Channel Islands in order generate ideas, support, partnerships and resources to move forward. By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Matt Pickett asked if attendance at Bight 2003 and reporting back to the SAC would suffice, Roberta Cordero and Rebecca Roth commented that it could supplement the effort.

## **Marine Reserves Regulatory Process Update**

John Ugoretz with the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) announced that the public comment period on the CEQA document for MPAs at the CINMS had been extended to September 1, 2002. He said that he has only received 300 comments thus far. John said that the Fish and Game Commission's adoption date for CINMS MPAs is still set for December 6, 2002. John also announced that the next meeting of the Fish and Game Commission was scheduled for August 1-2, and that it is possible that the CINMS MPAs proposal will be agendized.

Regarding DFG's position on the proposal for MPAs at CINMS, John Ugoretz said that "the Marine Region has decided that they would like to move forward with the proposed regulations as they stand and not adjust them based on the recent PFMC groundfish closures."

John reported that there is a state bill being introduced (SB 1086 by D. Alpert) to further extend the Marine Life Protection Act process timeline.

Sean Hastings mentioned that subcommittees of the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) had recently developed comments on DFG's Channel Islands MPAs CEQA document, and that copies of those comments are available at the Sanctuary office. Sean also reported that a PFMC Policy Group will meet publicly on August 15-16 to develop a policy statement on the DFG's Channel Islands MPA CEQA document.

## **SAC Communications**

The SAC engaged in discussion concerning recent active use of the Council's e-mail list-serv.

Roberta Cordero expressed concern about recent communications on the list, stating that they did not seem to be an honest dialogue.

Linda Krop said that the 80 or so subscribers to the SAC list-serv did not constitute the community, and so she felt it would be more appropriate to reserve substantive discussions for actual public meetings. She also said that the e-mail communications had become too disrespectful, and that topics that are not in line with agendized SAC business are not helpful.

Harry Liquornik said that he did not think the e-mails had become too below the belt.

Michael Hanrahan expressed an interest in having more time at meetings to really talk and listen to each other. For the e-mail list, he suggested, people should refrain from being disrespectful, be polite, and take one-on-one discussions off the list.

Jorge Gross said that the excessive e-mails were a waste of people's time.

Melissa Miller-Hensen suggested that perhaps the SAC e-mail list could be kept separate from another forum that could host theme-based discussions, such as a web-site based tool or archived list of postings.

Bill Douros explained how the Monterey Bay NMS Advisory Council dealt with similar e-mail list issues. He said that in response to personal and abusive messages, their SAC decided that the e-mail list should only be used for sharing meeting announcements and information related to the SAC's meeting agenda. The SAC, Bill said, has taken the responsibility to self-police this.

Linda Krop offered a motion that the SAC change the rules for use of their list-serv so that it be limited to the sending of notices, announcements and information about agendaized SAC business, and not be used for dialogue or discussion on issues. By a show of hands vote, the motion passed unanimously (13-0-0).

Dianne Meester reminded everyone that requests for meeting discussion items can be sent to her or Matt Pickett.

## **Future Meetings**

It was confirmed that the next SAC meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 13, 2002 in Santa Barbara. It was also re-announced that a SAC retreat to Santa Cruz Island is scheduled for October 18-19, 2002.

*Meeting notes respectfully submitted by:  
Michael Murray, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary  
michael.murray@noaa.gov*